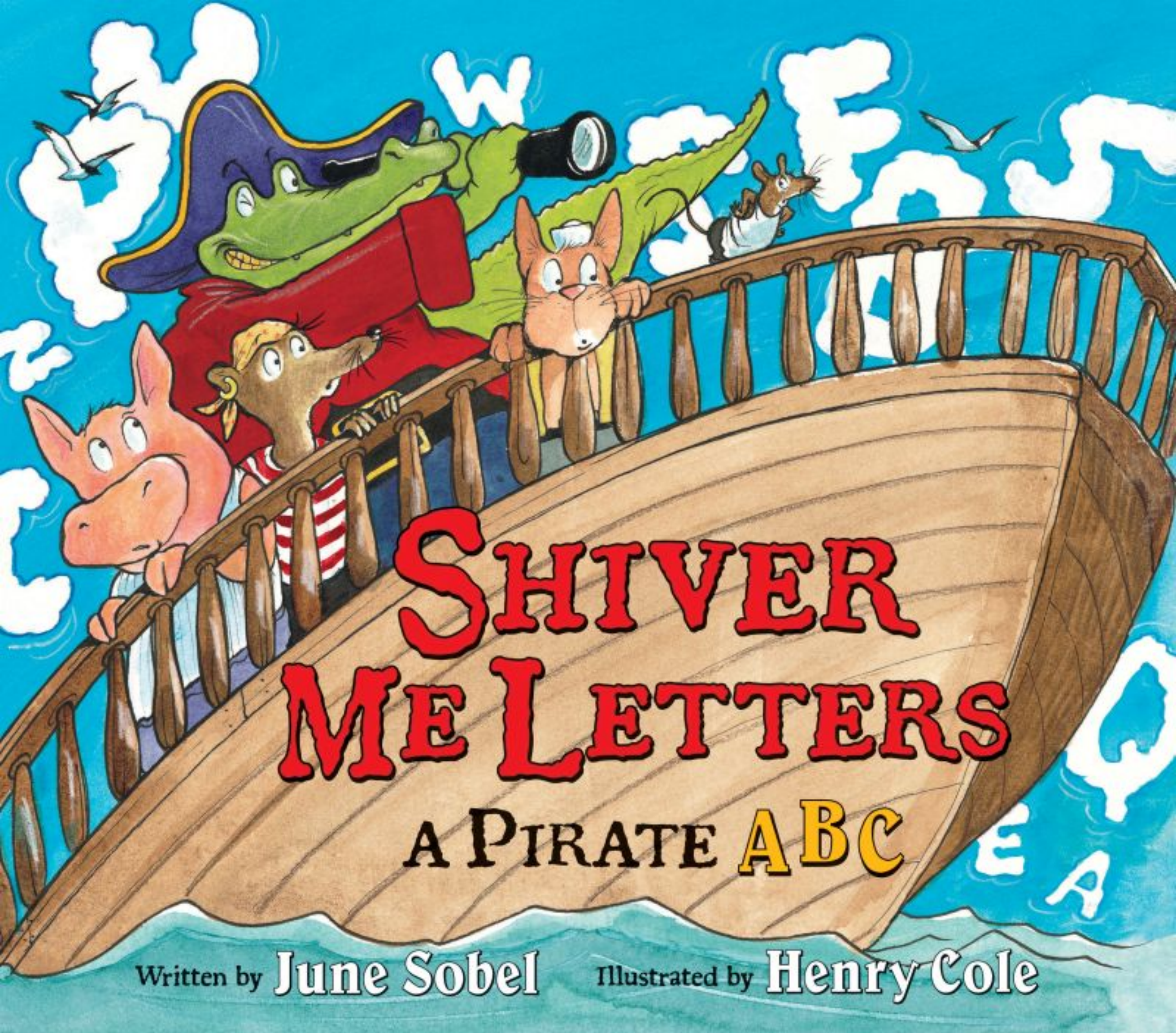
Shiver Me Letters
A Pirate ABC
Written by June Sobel
Illustrated by Henry Cole

www.hmhbooks.com

The illustrations in this book were done in watercolor and ink
on Arches hot press watercolor paper.
The display type was set in Belwe. The text type was set in P22 1722.

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The Library of Congress has cataloged the hardcover edition as follows:
Sobel, June.
Shiver me letters: a pirate ABC/written by June Sobel; illustrated by Henry
Cole.
p. cm.
Summary: Having decided that R is not enough for them, a bumbling
band of pirates sets sail on a quest to capture the rest of the alphabet.
[1. Pirates-Fiction. 2. Alphabet-Fiction. 3. Stories in rhyme.]
I. Cole, Henry, 1955- ill. II. Title.
PZ8.3.S692Sh 2006
[E]—dc22 2005008902
ISBN: 978-0-15-216732-5 ISBN: 978-0-15-206679-6 pb

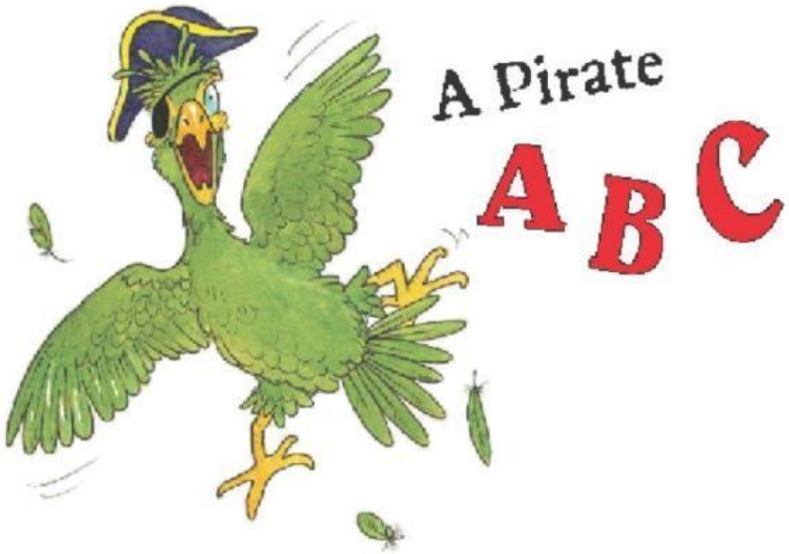
Manufactured in Singapore

TWP 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

To my own pirates, Mark and Adam R.
—J. S.

With love to Penoir and Nancoir, my own little Aruban pirate crew
—H. C.

Shiver Me Letters



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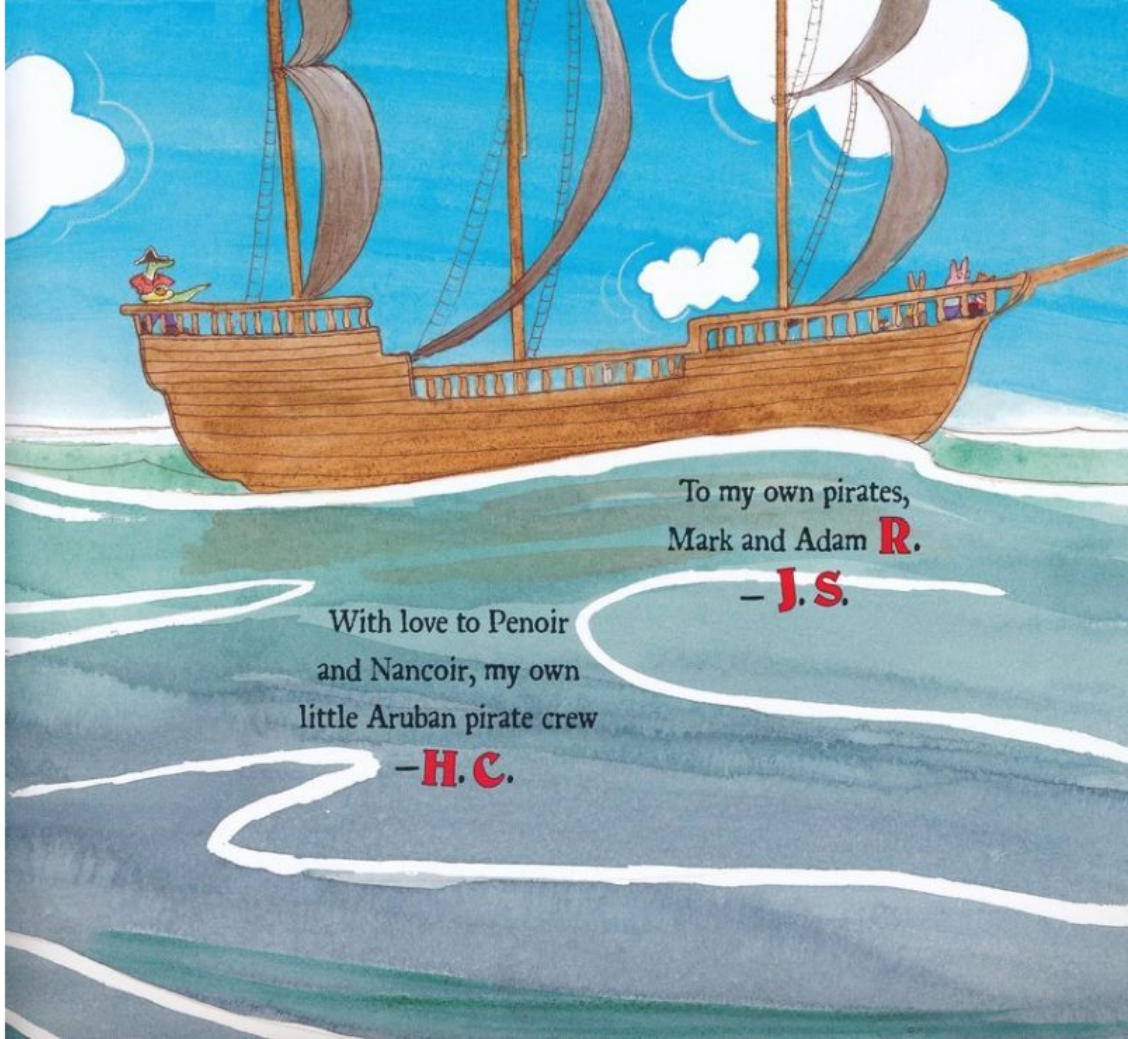
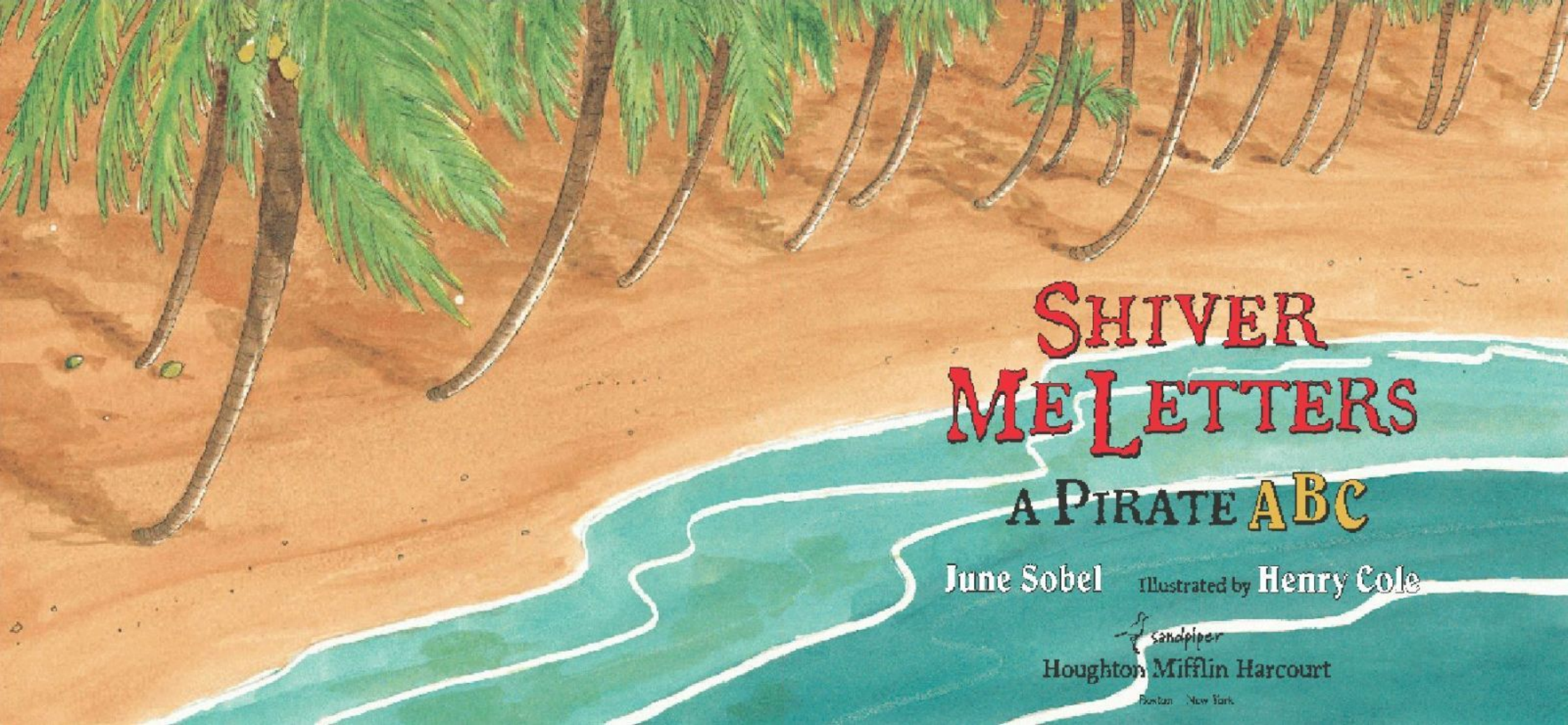




SHIVER ME LETTERS

A PIRATE ABC

June Sobel Illustrated by Henry Cole

sandpiper
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
Boston New York

"R," roared the captain.
"R's not enough.
We need other letters
to help make us tough."
"Let's sail far away
to find ABC's.
Bring me back
D's, E's,
F's,
and some
G's."

"R," cried the crew.
"R, we agree!
Let's look for an A and
a B and a C!"

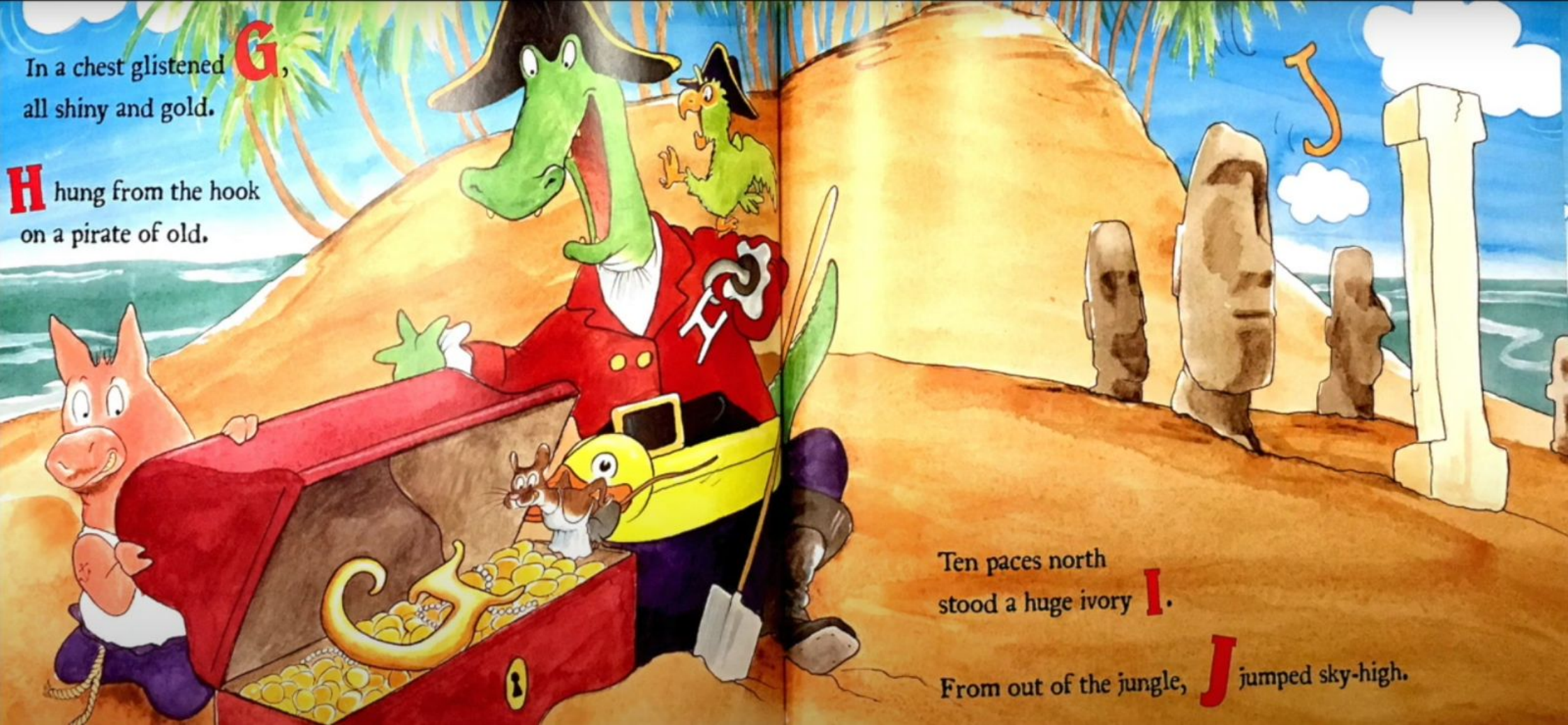
They set up their sails
and followed the wind.
Spying an island,
they toothlessly
grinned.

"Land ho!"
yelled the pirates
as they rowed to the west.
"Capture those letters.
Let's make it our quest!"

Splash!
The anchor went
into an A!
A B floated by on
the crystal clear bay.

In the sand sat a cannonball
carved with a C!
They dug for
doubloons and scooped up a D.

E escaped down from
one pirate's pierced ear.
His mate raised
a flag and found
F–give a cheer!



In a chest glistened G,
all shiny and gold.

H hung from the hook
on a pirate of old.

Ten paces north
stood a huge ivory I.

From out of the jungle, J jumped sky-high.

L
A K on a key slid under a shell.
Far from the water hid landlubber L.

A mysterious map with
an M soon appeared,
while one nimble N
popped right out of a beard!

They soon spotted O
rolling into the ocean.
P!
A parrot squawked, "P!"
What a commotion!

The gang questioned Q as it quacked in its nest.
"R," cried the crew.
"When do we rest?"
"Aye," moaned the captain.
"You slothful old bunch.
Find the next letter
or go
without
lunch!"

They saw S in the shape
of a swashbuckling sword,

then found T on a turtle as they hauled him aboard.

The crew dove underwater,
caught U in a net.

They viewed V
veiled in velvet,
all soaking wet.

A wave washed up W, sunburned and hot.

Pirates explored to find X marked the spot!

"I spy a Y!"
yelled a shipmate.

"Let's go!

We've captured
our letters.

yo-ho-ho-
ho!"

"R" roared the captain.
"Ye'll walk these for me.
Be off with ye, mates.
Go rob me a Z."

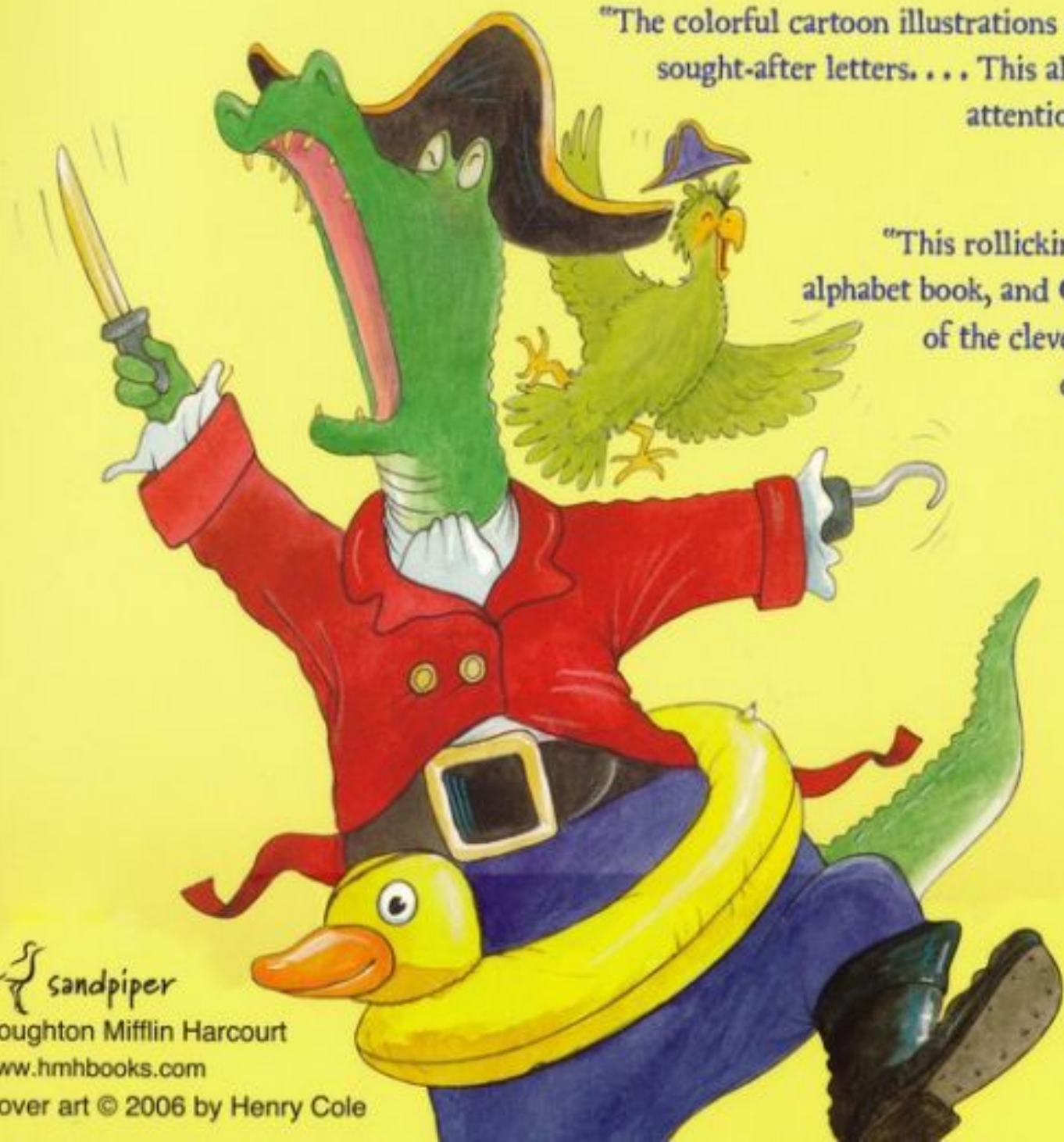
"R," cried the crew.
"Our work is not done.

We'll search and we'll plunder
to find the last one!"

And that very night
as they snored in their beds,
zillions of Z's zoomed all over their heads.

ARRRRR!

A crew of swashbuckling pirates is plundering the alphabet,
and they won't stop until they capture each letter, right down to **Z**.
So grab a net, matey, and don't miss the boat on this alphabet adventure!



"The colorful cartoon illustrations encourage children to participate by finding the sought-after letters. . . . This alphabet adventure is sure to capture audience attention at a pirate-themed storyhour."
–*School Library Journal*

"This rollicking, rhyming, seafaring caper is an inventive alphabet book, and Cole's comical illustrations put wind in the sails of the clever quest. A rip-roaring yarn that offers a treasure chest of ideas for classroom activities."
–*Booklist*

"This will have young tars and lubbers alike happily signing on for the voyage."
–*Kirkus Reviews*

"Ahoy! A nifty concept book."
–*Publishers Weekly*

sandpiper
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
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ISBN-13: 978-0-15-206679-6
50699
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